

Asian/Asian American Caucus for Virginia Tech Faculty and Staff Inclusion and Diversity Report 2015

The purpose of the Asian/Asian American Caucus for Virginia Tech Faculty and Staff is to serve as an advocacy and support group for faculty and staff at Virginia Tech who identify as Asian, do work pertinent to Asian/Asian American communities, and/or are interested in participating in conversations relevant to those who identify as Asian/Asian American. The caucus functions as a liaison to the university community on issues relevant to Asians and Asian Americans, and is committed to supporting Asian/Asian American students at Virginia Tech.

Over the past year, the caucus has participated with the Black Caucus, Hispanic and Latino Faculty and Staff Caucus, and LGBT Caucus to provide input with regards to the search for a new Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity. The inaugural Asian/Asian American Caucus for Virginia Tech Faculty and Staff meeting took place on Friday, September 11, 2015, with 13 members in attendance. Our Google Group email list has grown to include 51 subscribers.

This coming year, we will be collectively developing our mission, goals, and priorities. Among topics under discussion include those pertaining to recruitment, retention, and equity; curriculum; leadership; building connections for interdisciplinary Asian/Asian American research; and alumni engagement. We will be working to build partnerships with Virginia Tech and community organizations, such as the Asian American Student Union and the Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board. We will also conduct a survey to gain a fuller sense of the experiences and concerns of Asian/Asian American faculty and staff at Virginia Tech. Findings will be compiled in a report, expected June 2016.

We are an inclusive group and welcome all Virginia Tech faculty and staff who identify as Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and mixed-race Asian, as well as those who do *not* self-identify with any of these groups but who do scholarship on--or are interested in issues relevant to--Asians, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and mixed-race Asians. If you are interested in joining or obtaining more information about the caucus, email Jennifer Sano-Franchini at sanojenn@vt.edu.